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| TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A SUBMISSION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 | | ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 29827/40829 |
| INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP2003/009406 | INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 25 August 2003 | U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 10/523913 PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 26 August 2002 |
| TITLE OF INVENTION WATER ABSORBING AGENT AND METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION THEREOF | | |
| APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Thomas Daniel et al. | | |

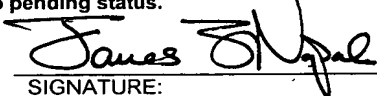
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371 (f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
4. ☐ The US has been elected (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2))
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).

Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A preliminary amendment.
14. ☒ An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A power of attorney and/or change of address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 CFR 1.821 - 1.825.
18. ☒ A second copy of the published International Application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. ☒ Other items or information: Return receipt postcard

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

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| U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known) 10/523913 37 CFR 1.51 | | INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP2003/009406 | | ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 29827/40829 | |
| The following fees have been submitted | | | | CALCULATIONS | PTO USE ONLY |
| 21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic national fee \$300 | | | | \$ 300.00 | |
| 22. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examination fee | | | | | |
| If International preliminary examination report prepared by USPTO and all claims satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$100 | | | | | |
| All other situations \$200 | | | | \$ 200.00 | |
| 23. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Search fee | | | | | |
| Search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) has been paid on the international application to the USPTO as an International Searching Authority \$100 | | | | | |
| International Search Report prepared and provided to the Office..... \$400 | | | | | |
| All other situations \$500 | | | | \$ 500.00 | |
| TOTAL OF 21, 22 and 23 = | | | | \$ 1,000.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing or computer program listing filed in an electronic medium). The fee is \$250 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof. | | | | | |
| Total Sheets | Extra sheets | Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number) | RATE | | |
| 29 - 100 = | /50 = | | x \$250.00 | | |
| Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)). | | | | \$ | |
| CLAIMS | NUMBER FILED | NUMBER EXTRA | RATE | | |
| Total claims | 12 - 20 = | | x | \$ | |
| Independent claims | 1 - 3 = | | x | \$ | |
| MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(s) (if applicable) | | | + | \$ | |
| TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = | | | | \$ 1,000.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. Fees above are reduced by 1/2. | | | | \$ | |
| SUBTOTAL = | | | | \$ 1,000.00 | |
| Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)). | | | | + | \$ |
| TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = | | | | \$ 1,000.00 | |
| Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21 (h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property | | | | + | \$ |
| TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = | | | | \$ 1,000.00 | |
| | | | | Amount to be refunded: | \$ |
| | | | | Amount to be charged: | \$ |
| a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ <u>1,000.00</u> to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>13-2855</u> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038. | | | | | |
| NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the International Application to pending status. | | | | | |
| SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: | | | | | |
|  SIGNATURE: | | | | | |
| James J. Napoli | | | | | |
| NAME | | | | | |
| 32,361 | | | | | |
| REGISTRATION NUMBER | | | | | |
| CUSTOMER NUMBER: 04743 | | | | | |

Application No. (if known): Not Yet Assigned

Attorney Docket No.: 29827/40829

Certificate of Express Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 456046755 US in an envelope addressed to:

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P.O. Box 1450
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on February 7, 2005
Date


Signature

Richard Zimmermann

Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate

Registration Number, if applicable

Telephone Number

Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing, or this certificate must identify each submitted paper.

English language translation of the International application
Oath or declaration of the inventor(s)
Preliminary Amendment
Second copy of published International Application
Transmittal Letter to the United States Designated-Elected Office (2 pages)
Application Data Sheet (4 pages)
Check in the amount of \$1,000.00
Return receipt postcard